

U.S. Serial No. 10/078,347

NIP-256

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel rejected Claims 1, 3-4, 7 and 14, and amend Claims 2, 5-6 and 8, as set forth below.

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A radioactive substance decontamination apparatus ~~according to Claim 1, further comprising~~ for decontaminating a metal member contaminated by a radioactive substance using a reducing decontamination agent, comprising:

multiple reducing decontamination tanks having different radiation control values as upper limit values for a radiation dose of a reducing decontamination agent stored inside, said multiple reducing decontamination tanks including a first reducing decontamination tank and a second reducing decontamination tank;

wherein said second reducing decontamination tank has a radiation control value that is higher than that of said first reducing decontamination tank;

a carrier for taking out said metal member from said second reducing decontamination tank and placing said metal member in said first reducing decontamination tank;

a tube for transferring the reducing decontamination agent in the first reducing decontamination tank into the second

U.S. Serial No. 10/078,347

NIP-256

reducing decontamination tank;

a first reducing agent decomposer for decomposing a component contained in the reducing decontamination agent of the reducing decontamination tank where said radiation control value is the highest out of the reducing decontamination tanks connected by said tube;

a washing tank for washing said reducing decontamination agent deposited on said decontaminated metal member; and

a second reducing decontamination agent decomposer for decomposing reducing decontamination agent in a reducing decontamination tank to which said tube is not connected.

3-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A radioactive substance decontamination apparatus ~~according to Claim 4, further comprising for decontaminating a metal member contaminated by~~ a radioactive substance using a reducing decontamination agent, comprising:

multiple reducing decontamination tanks having different radiation control values as the upper limit values for a radiation dose of a reducing decontamination agent stored inside;

said multiple reducing decontamination tanks including a first reducing decontamination tank and a second reducing

U.S. Serial No. 10/078,347

NIP-256

decontamination tank, wherein said second reducing decontamination tank has a radiation control value that is higher than that of said first reducing decontamination tank;

a first tube for transferring, into the second reducing decontamination tank where said radiation control value is the second value which is higher than said first value, the reducing decontamination agent in the first reducing decontamination tank where said radiation control value is the first value;

an oxidizing decontamination tank for decontaminating said metal member by using an oxidizing decontamination liquid;

a carrier for transferring said metal member from said second reducing decontamination tank into said oxidizing decontamination tank, and said metal member from said oxidizing decontamination tank into said first reducing decontamination tank;

a reducing agent decomposer for decomposing a component contained in the reducing decontamination agent of the reducing decontamination tank where said radiation control value is the highest out of the reducing decontamination tanks connected by said tube;

a washing tank for washing said reducing decontamination agent deposited on said decontaminated metal member; and

a second tube for transferring an oxidizing decontamination agent from said oxidizing decontamination tank

U.S. Serial No. 10/078,347

NIP-256

to any of said multiple reducing decontamination tanks.

6. (Currently Amended) A radioactive substance decontamination apparatus ~~according to Claim 4, further comprising~~ for decontaminating a metal member contaminated by a radioactive substance using a reducing decontamination agent, comprising:

multiple reducing decontamination tanks having different radiation control values as the upper limit values for a radiation dose of a reducing decontamination agent stored inside;

said multiple reducing decontamination tanks including a first reducing decontamination tank and a second reducing decontamination tank, wherein said second reducing decontamination tank has a radiation control value that is higher than that of said first reducing decontamination tank;

a first tube for transferring, into the second reducing decontamination tank where said radiation control value is the second value which is higher than said first value, the reducing decontamination agent in the first reducing decontamination tank where said radiation control value is the first value;

an oxidizing decontamination tank for decontaminating said metal member by using an oxidizing decontamination liquid;

a carrier for transferring said metal member from said

U.S. Serial No. 10/078,347

NIP-256

second reducing decontamination tank into said oxidizing decontamination tank, and said metal member from said oxidizing decontamination tank into said first reducing decontamination tank;

a reducing agent decomposer for decomposing a component contained in the reducing decontamination agent of the reducing decontamination tank where said radiation control value is the highest out of the reducing decontamination tanks connected by said tube;

a washing tank for washing said reducing decontamination agent deposited on said decontaminated metal member; and

a second tube for transferring an oxidizing decontamination agent from said oxidizing decontamination tank to the reducing decontamination tank where said radiation control value is the highest out of said reducing decontamination tanks.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A radioactive substance decontamination apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ for decontaminating a metal member contaminated by a radioactive substance using a reducing decontamination agent, comprising:
multiple reducing decontamination tanks having different radiation control values as upper limit values for a radiation

U.S. Serial No. 10/078,347

NIP-256

dose of a reducing decontamination agent stored inside, said multiple reducing decontamination tanks including a first reducing decontamination tank and a second reducing decontamination tank;

wherein said second reducing decontamination tank has a radiation control value that is higher than that of said first reducing decontamination tank;

a carrier for taking out said metal member from said second reducing decontamination tank and placing said metal member in said first reducing decontamination tank;

a tube for transferring the reducing decontamination agent in the first reducing decontamination tank into the second reducing decontamination tank;

a first reducing agent decomposer for decomposing a component contained in the reducing decontamination agent of the reducing decontamination tank where said radiation control value is the highest out of the reducing decontamination tanks connected by said tube; and

a washing tank for washing said reducing decontamination agent deposited on said decontaminated metal member;

further characterized in that:

said carrier is designed to carry multiple said metal members, and, when carrying said metal members one by one, it immerses the second metal member in a tank other than the one where the first metal member is immersed.

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U.S. Serial No. 10/078,347

NIP-256

9-14. (Canceled)